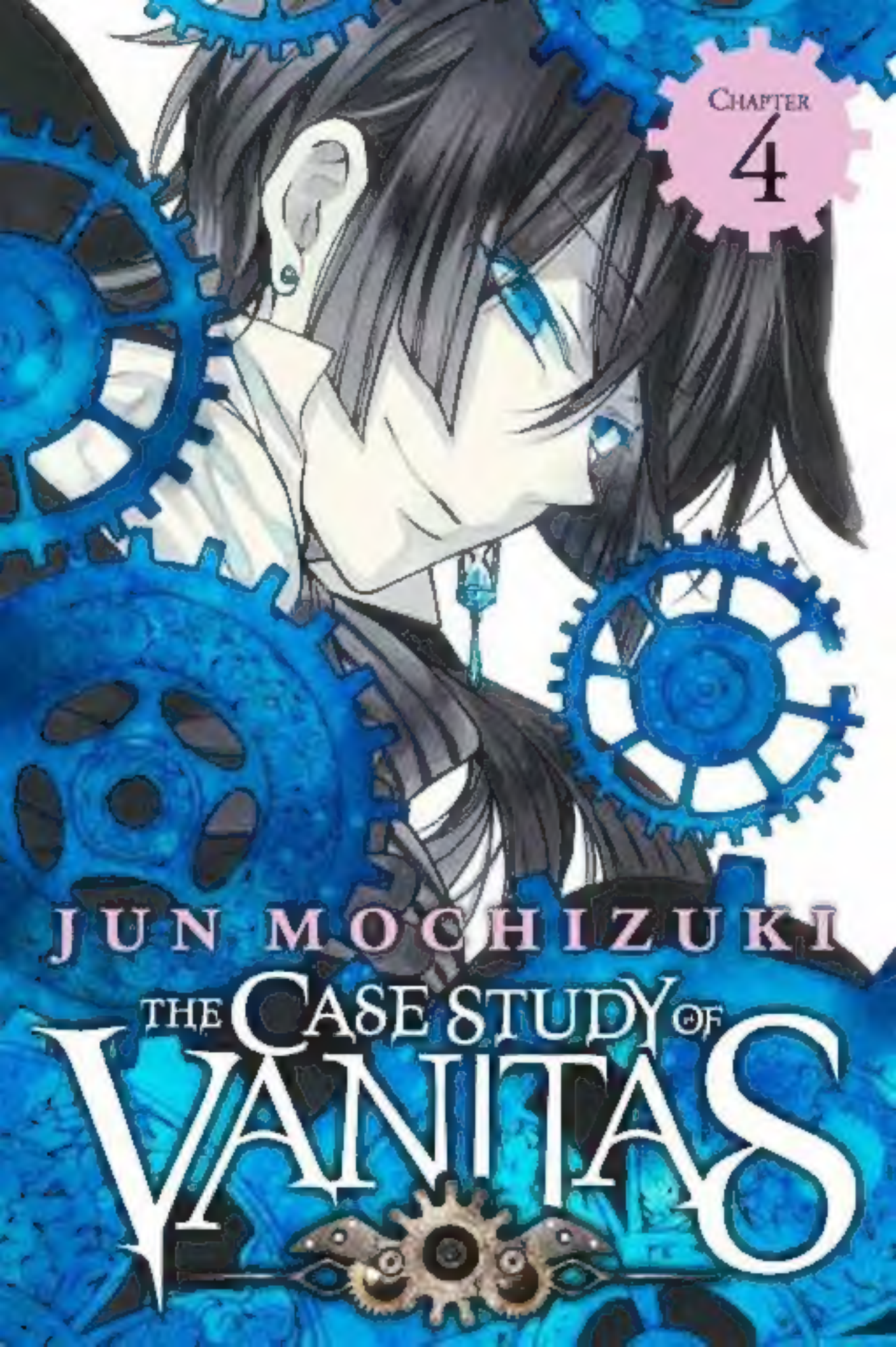

Chapter
4
JUN MOCHIZUKI
THE CASE STUDY OF
VANITAS

WHAAAT!? YOU SET RICHE TRAILING A CURSE-BEARER!?
WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME WERE YOU THINKING!?
WHADDAYA MEAN, "WHAT"?
SHE SAID TO LET HER HELP, SO I LET HER TAKE THE JOB, THAT'S ALL.
SHE WAS OBVIOUSLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU BECAUSE OF ALL YOUR IDIOTIC STUNTS!
OOOOH, RICHEEEE! PLEASE BE ALL RIGHT!
...TALK ABOUT OVER-PROTECTIVE. LET HER TAKE CARE OF HERSELF.
TCH
SHUT UP, YOU IMBECILE!
THIS IS WHY I CAN'T STAND BRUTES WHO DON'T UNDERSTAND A GIRL'S FEELINGS!!

JUN MOCHIZUKI

THE CASE STUDY OF VANITAS

Memoir 1 Low FEMME FATALE

JEANNE ...!

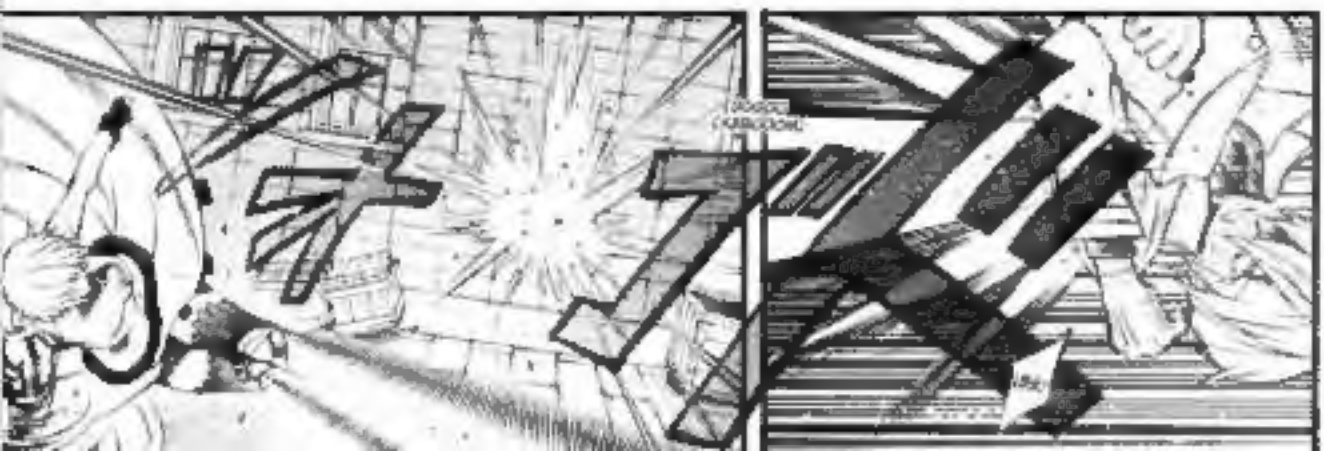
WHERE IS VANITAS ...!!?
WHERE DID HE GO!?
RIGHT HERE!!
WHOA !?

DON'T!!
MAY I THROW YOU BACK!?
NICE CATCH, NOBI
WHOA!

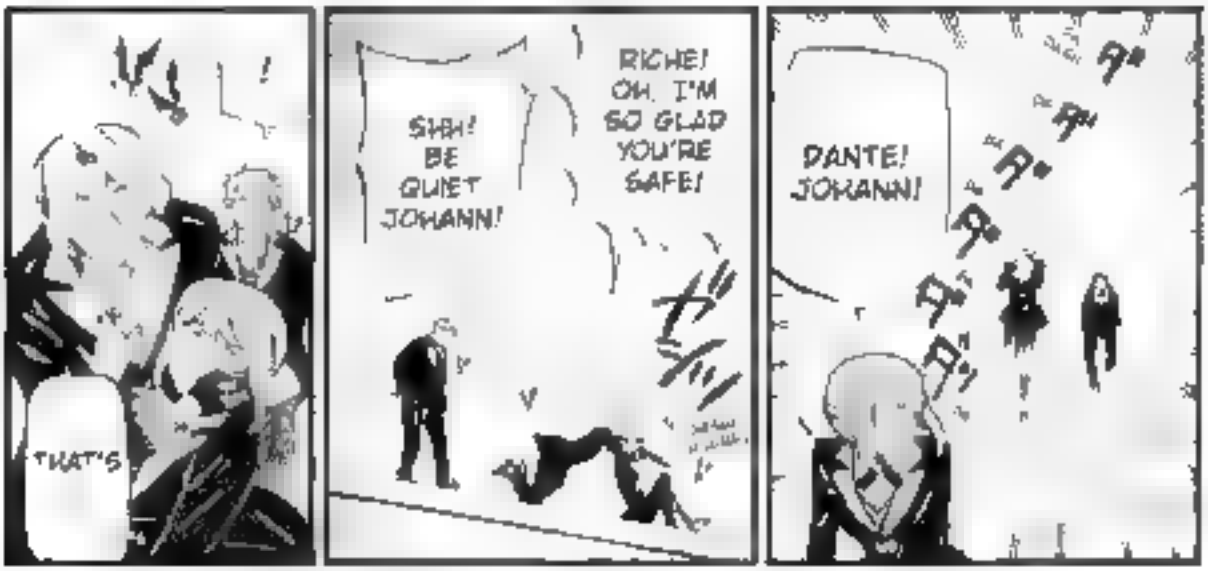
...SHE'S FAR TAMER THAN I THOUGHT.
SHE'S AMAZ-ING.
HER REACTIONS ARE SO QUICK, IT'S HARD TO GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT GAUNTLET.
TRUE. BUT...
THE PLAN IS AS I TOLD YOU EARLIER, NOE.
WELL, THAT'S BESIDE THE POINT.

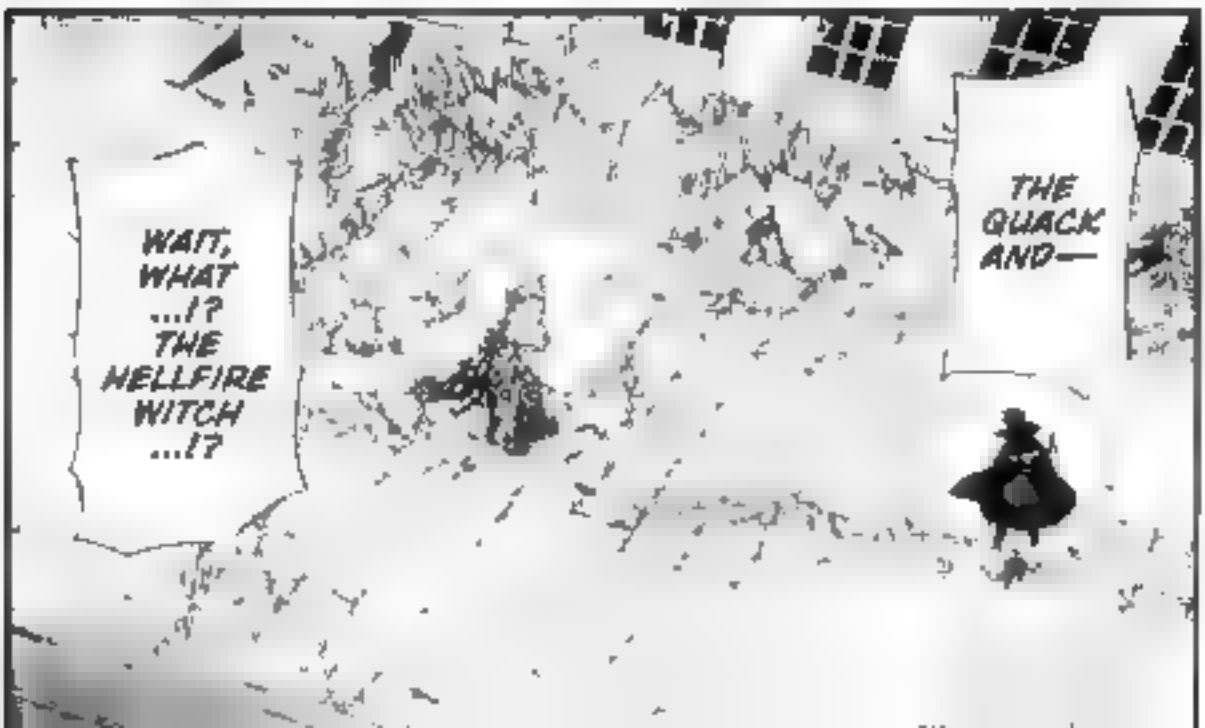
I'LL DO THAT!
PLEASE GO ON AHEAD!
!
I REFUSE!
MOVE !!

!
...SHE'S NOT AS STRONG AS MY TEACHER ...!
SHE REALLY IS STRONG.
BUT...
I CAN DO THIS.
EVEN ON MY OWN —!



RICHE!
NOW, LET'S SEE


THAT'S
SHH! BE QUIET JOHANN!
RICHE! OH, I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE SAFE!
DANTE! JOHANN!


WAIT, WHAT ...!? THE HELLFIRE WITCH ...!?
THE QUACK AND—

"MASTER LUCA'S ORDERS" HM?
I HAVEN'T KILLED HIM
DON'T WORRY.
HMM. FINISHED NOE OFF ALREADY, DID YOU?

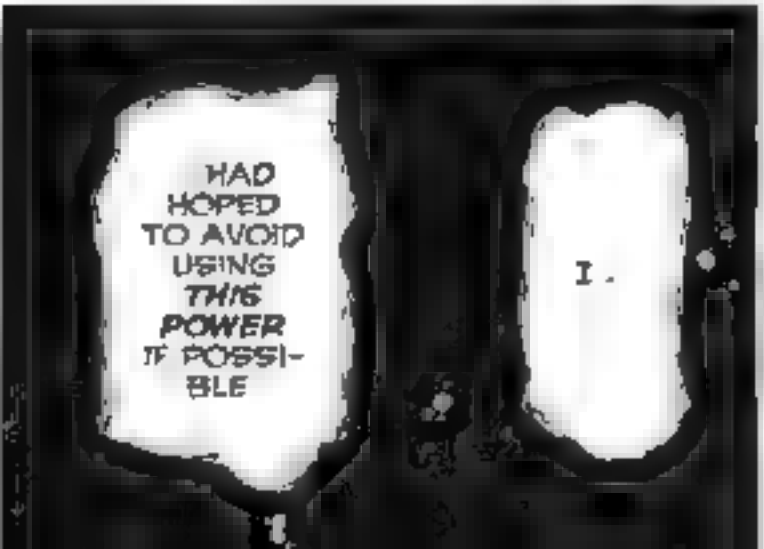
WHAT A DISAP-POINT-MENT

THE VAMPIRE OF THE BLUE MOON OFTEN TOLD ME STORIES OF THE "HELLFIRE WITCH"

THE YOUNG WARRIOR MAIDEN
WHO RACED OVER BATTLEFIELDS, MERCILESSLY ROUTING HER OWN KIND—
HE SAID YOU WERE SO BEAUTIFUL IT MADE HIM SHUDDER
AFTERWARD, THEY PUT YOU INTO AN INDUCED SLUMBER.
WHEN I HEARD LORD RUTHVEN HAD AWAKENED YOU AFTER ALL THIS TIME, I WAS THRILLED, AND YET
I NEVER IMAGINED YOU'D HAVE DEGENERATED THIS MUCH!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?

I'M SAYING I'M TIRED OF PLAYING WITH YOU.
!?
OH. THAT'S RIGHT I HAVEN'T INTRODUCED MYSELF YET HAVE I?
MY NAME IS VANITAS
I AM A MERE HUMAN WHO INHERITED THE NAME AND *THE BOOK OF VANITAS* FROM THE VAMPIRE OF THE BLUE MOON—

I BELONG TO THE CLAN OF THE BLUE MOON .....!
AND AS ONE FROM WHOM THAT VAMPIRE ONCE DRANK, MY BODY HAS BEEN INVESTED WITH A PORTION OF HIS POWER.


I HAD HOPED TO AVOID USING *THIS POWER* IF POSSI-BLE
I.

HELL-FIRE WITCH.
ALLOW ME TO SHOW YOU MY "TRUE FORM" ...!
HIS TRUE FORM !?
WATCH HIS EVERY MOVE —!
THIS CAN'T BE GOOD.
STAY ON YOUR GUARD.
WHY DID HE LET GO OF THE BOOK?
WHAT COULD IT BE. THIS POWER GRANTED BY THE VAMPIRE OF THE BLUE MOON?

JEANNE!
..!
!?

!?
THE NINE-FOLD MUR-DERER ...!?

.....!!
ズ
ズ
RRGH

JUST AS I THOUGHT.
YEP!
FIGHTING MONSTERS S BEST LEFT TO OTHER MONSTERS!

WHOA.
IT WAS ALL A BLUFF TO KEEP MY ATTENTION ON HIM. 17
ACTIN LIKE HE WAS ABOUT TO DO SOMETHING ROFOLIA.
LETTING GO OF THE BOOK OF VANITAS.
HITTING A WOMAN RIGHT IN THE GUT WITHOUT A HINT OF MERCY.
USING A CURSE-BEARER AS A PAWN, THOUGH. THAT'S.
HE WAS BUYING TIME UNTIL THOMAS BERNELIX'S PARALYSIS WORE OFF.
SEE
WHAT A JERK.

..FALLEN WITCH.
JUST STAY QUIET AND WATCH FROM THERE. .
AS IF I'D REALLY HAVE.
SUCH A CONVENIENT ACE UP MY SLEEVE

I'VE KEPT YOU WAITING. NINE-FOLD MURDERER
NOW THEN.

YOUR HABIT OF PROWLING IN SEARCH OF THE LIFEBLOOD OF YOUNG WOMEN ON MOONLIT NIGHTS..
YOUR LUPINE APPEARANCE

MAL-NOMEN
...LOUP-GAROU. WOLF WHO HUNTS CRIMSON.
INITIATE!
COME
LET'S HAVE YOU RETURN THAT MAN'S TRUE NAME!
OPERATION: INVERSE!!

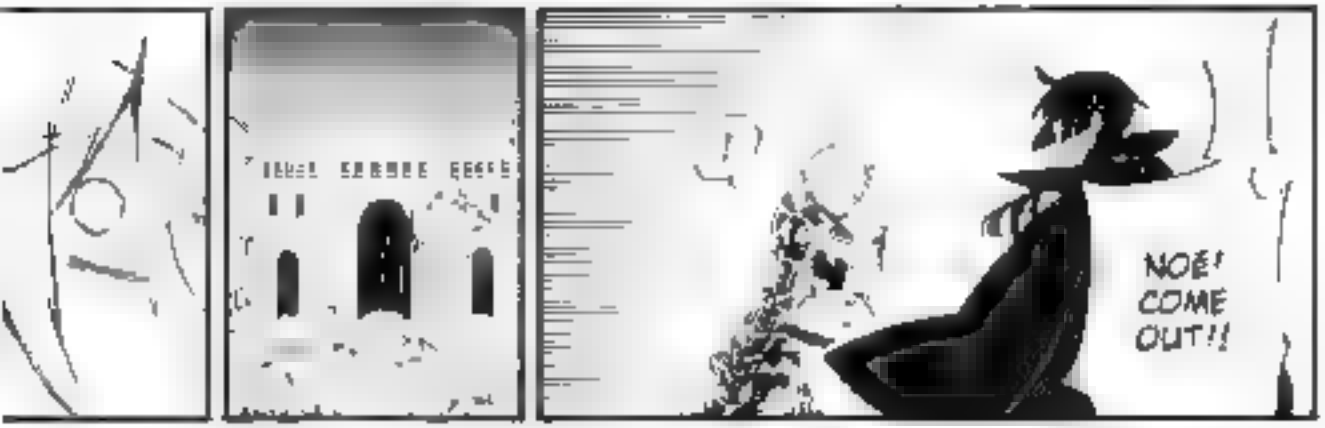
EGA...
BUCOLICUS, "HE WHO COMPOSES IDYLLS"!

SO THAT'S YOUR TRUE NAME IS IT?

IN-
CREDI-
BLE!
I WAS SUPPOSED TO CURE HIM IN ORLOK'S PRESENCE . . .
THIS GUY
OH DRAT
WE WILL TELL MASTER PARKS WHAT TOOK PLACE HERE, JUST AS WE SAW IT
MY SISTER AND I WATCHED IT ALL, AS COUNT ORLOK'S EYES
NO NEED

YOU MUST BE JOKING
YOU TOOK POISON FROM LOUP-GAROU'S FANGS.
AND THE SAME PARALYSIS I INFLICTED ON BERNEUX
... YET.
NOT ...
HAAH-

I... CAN STILL... FIGHT ...!!


NOE! COME OUT!!

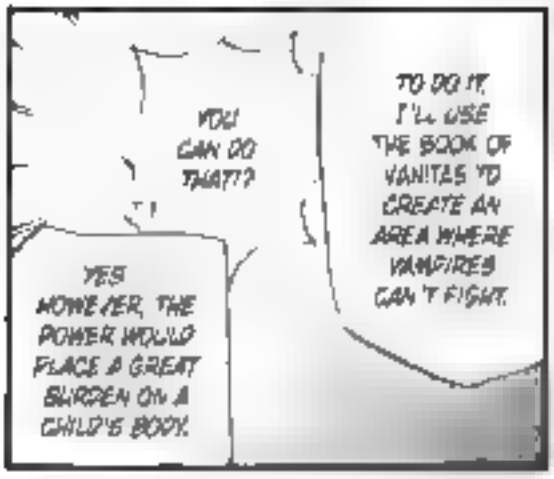
MASTER LUCA ..!?
.....!!

YOU CATCH MY MEANING, DON'T YOU ?
ALL RIGHT HELLFIRE WITCH

AND MY UNDERLING WILL SNAP THAT BRAT'S SCRAWNY NECK IN A HEARTBEAT
JUST TRY AND MAKE ONE FALSE MOVE

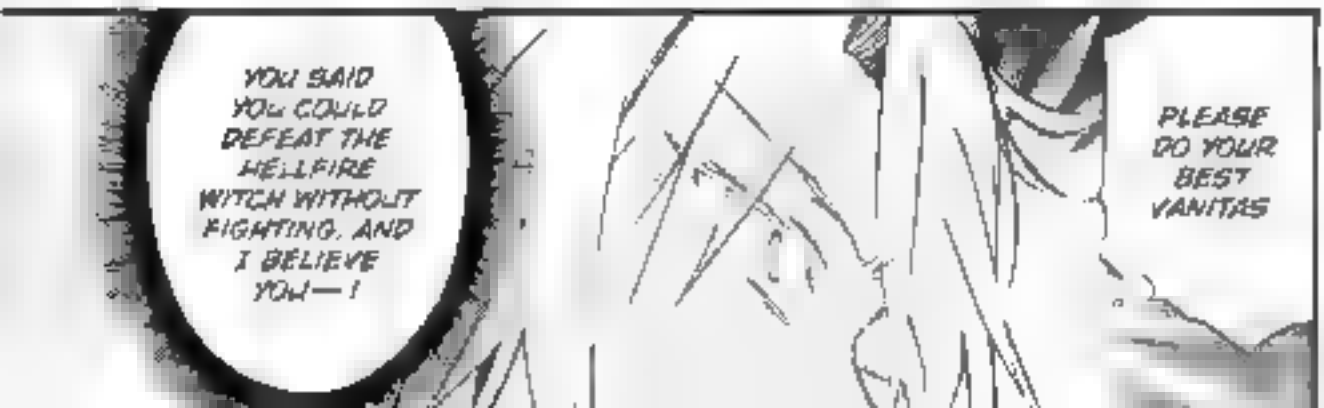
THIS GUY REALLY IS A JERK...

LISTEN HERE, NOEL. COLLAR THAT LUCIA GAVE YOU SOMEHOW.
THEY'RE TOO FAR. I CAN'T TELL WHAT THEY'RE SAYING.


YOU CAN DO THAT!?
TO DO IT, I'LL USE THE BOOK OF VANITAS TO CREATE AN AREA WHERE VAMPIRES CAN'T FIGHT.
YES HOWEVER, THE POWER WOULD PLACE A GREAT BURDEN ON A CHILD'S BODY.

I'M ABOUT TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE WITCH.
FOR THE BOY'S OWN SAFETY.
COLLAR HUH? WHAT FOR?

I-I SEE?
YOU MUSTN'T DO THAT. THE BOY HAS A DUTY TO WITNESS OUR NEGOTIATIONS TO THE END.
WHY DON'T I JUST TAKE HIM OUT OF THE AREA THEN...?
HUH!?
DON'T POINT TO LOWER HIS MOUTH. IT'S YOU WOULD A JOB LIKE SO
SO HOLD THE BOY STILL AND OBSERVE THE SITUATION FROM AS FAR AWAY AS POSSIBLE.


YOU SAID YOU COULD DEFEAT THE HELLFIRE WITCH WITHOUT FIGHTING. AND I BELIEVE YOU—!
PLEASE DO YOUR BEST VANITAS

DON'T!!
WAIT!

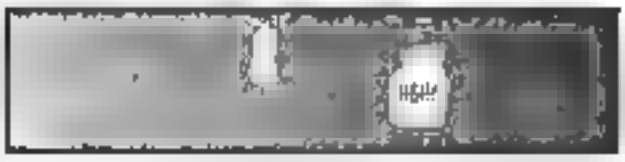
JUST

YOU CAN DO ANYTHING YOU WANT TO ME, SO JUST—

I LOSE!
I WON'T DO ANYTHING MORE!

DON'T HURT HIM. !!
PLEASE

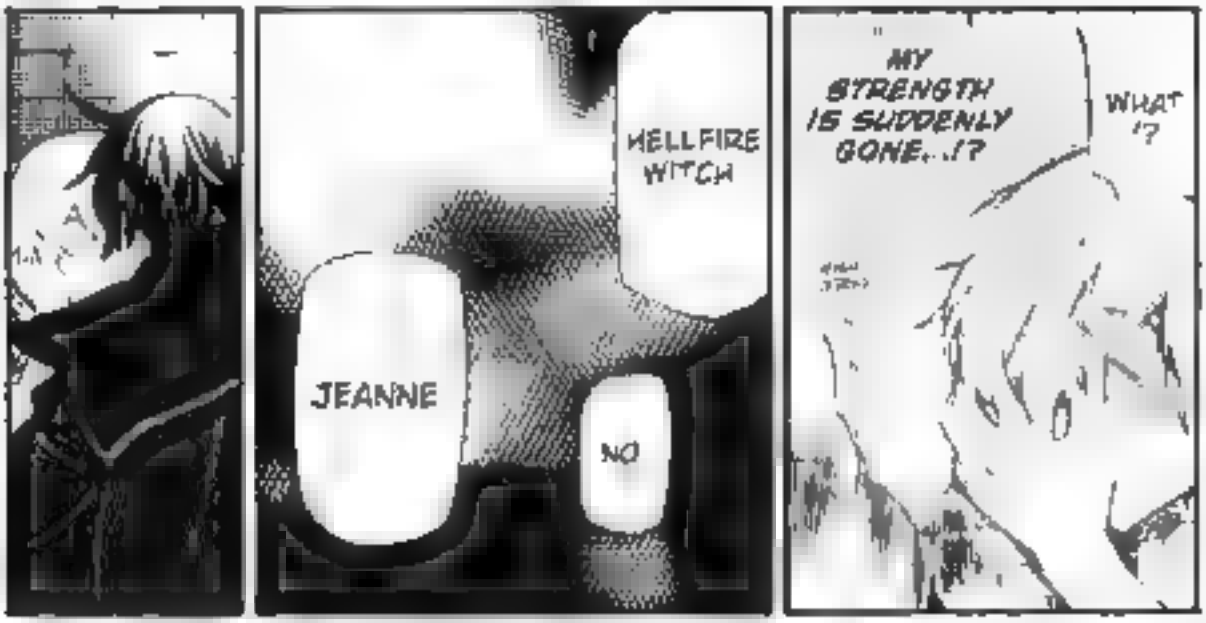
THIS WEAK ATTITUDE !?
WHY THE TEARS !?



HA HA HA!
SO THAT BOY TRULY IS YOUR WEAKNESS, HM!?

YOU GAVE YOURSELF SOMETHING TO PROTECT. THAT'S WHY YOU'RE WEAK.
...THIS IS GOOD.
BUT...
YOU'VE GROWN WEAK. THAT'S TRUE.
I TAKE BACK WHAT I SAID, HELLFIRE WITCH
HUH?

HOWEVER THAT VERY WEAKNESS HEIGHTENS YOUR BEAUTY


HELLFIRE WITCH
JEANNE
NO
"MY STRENGTH IS SUDDENLY GONE..!?
WHAT!?

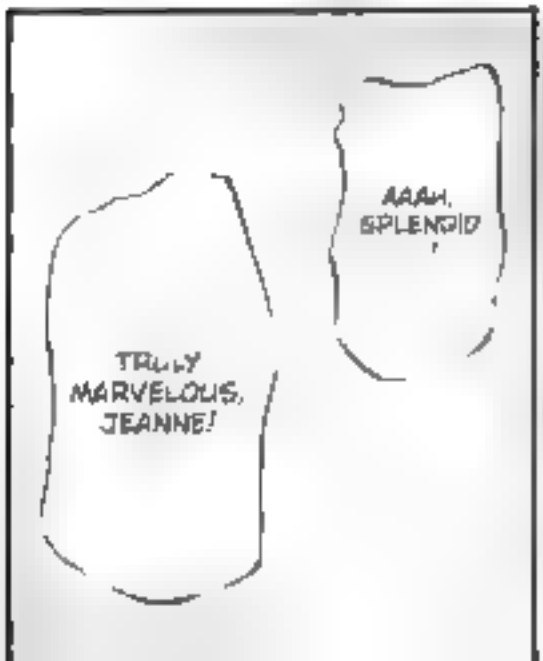
YOU'VE COME TO INTEREST ME GREATLY, YOU KNOW?

ER?
HUNH?

!?
!?
!!??
.....!?

NGH
HFF
NN!
ZZZZZ
NNN
HM

THAT LOOK'S TERRIBLY ENTICING TOO.


AAAH, SPLENDID
TRULY MARVELOUS, JEANNE!

MORE, MORE!
I WANT TO SEE ALL YOUR DIFFERENT SIDES!
IT BEATS SO LOUDLY
I CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF OF YOU
EP!
WHAT IS THIS THROBBING IN MY CHEST !?
YES, I GET IT NOW I UNDER-STAND.
I SEE
?
THIS IS... "LOVE"!

??

ARE YOU NUTS!!?

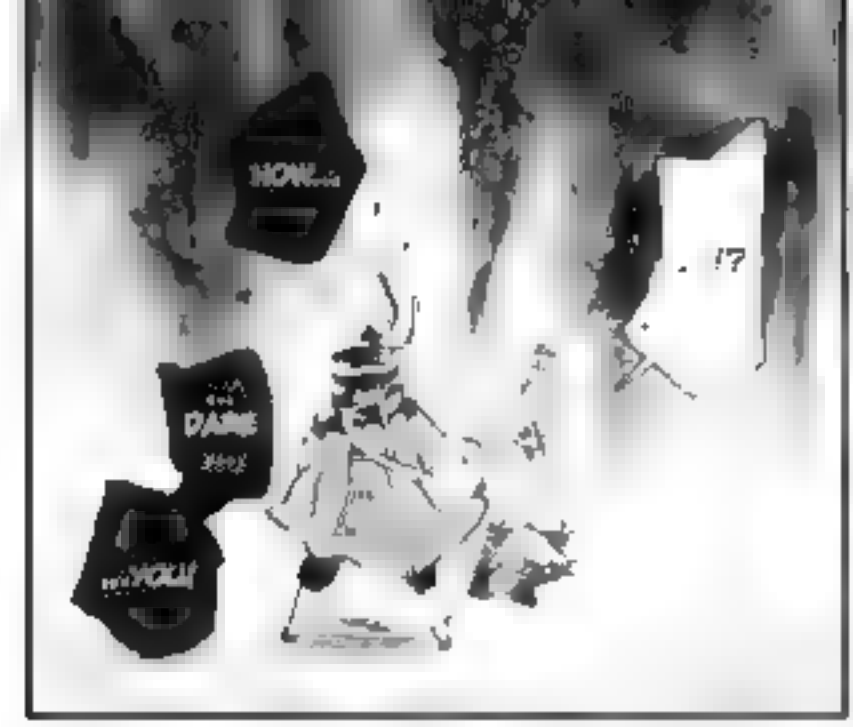
MARRY ME, AND BE MINE...!!

I MUST HAVE ALL OF YOU.

FROM NOW ON, I'LL LOVE YOU DEARLY.

JEANNIE.

I LOVE YOU...!


HOW...
!?
DAME
NO!!

WHAT THE —!?
FLAMES !? WHERE FROM ?
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO JEANNE !!!?

A LARGE-SCALE "FORMULA" REVISION !!
LUCA, YOU'RE !?
MASTER LUCA!!
WE'LL WITHDRAW FOR TODAY.

I'LL COME TO KILL YOU, I SWEAR IT...!!
BUT REMEMBER THIS...! NEXT TIME, I'LL KILL YOU!!

AAAARGH!
OOOH!
YOU'LL COME TO SEE ME!? I CAN'T WA T!!

AH!

MASTER LUCA, YOU MUSTN'T
RIGHT NOW!

HE MUST HAVE SLIPPED AWAY IN THE CONFUSION! AFTER HIM!
SISTER! THE NINE-FOLD MURDERER IS GONE!
HMMM
HEH
AH HA HA!
HA HA HA HA!
HA HA HA HA!

...
LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET ENTERTAINING...
...NOE!

WHAT HAPPENED TO ME ...!?
MY TRUE NAME IS BACK TO NORMAL ...!?

ANYWAY, I'VE GOT TO RUN.
I'VE KILLED PEOPLE.
I WON'T GET OFF EASY IF THEY TAKE ME TO COUNT ORLOK!

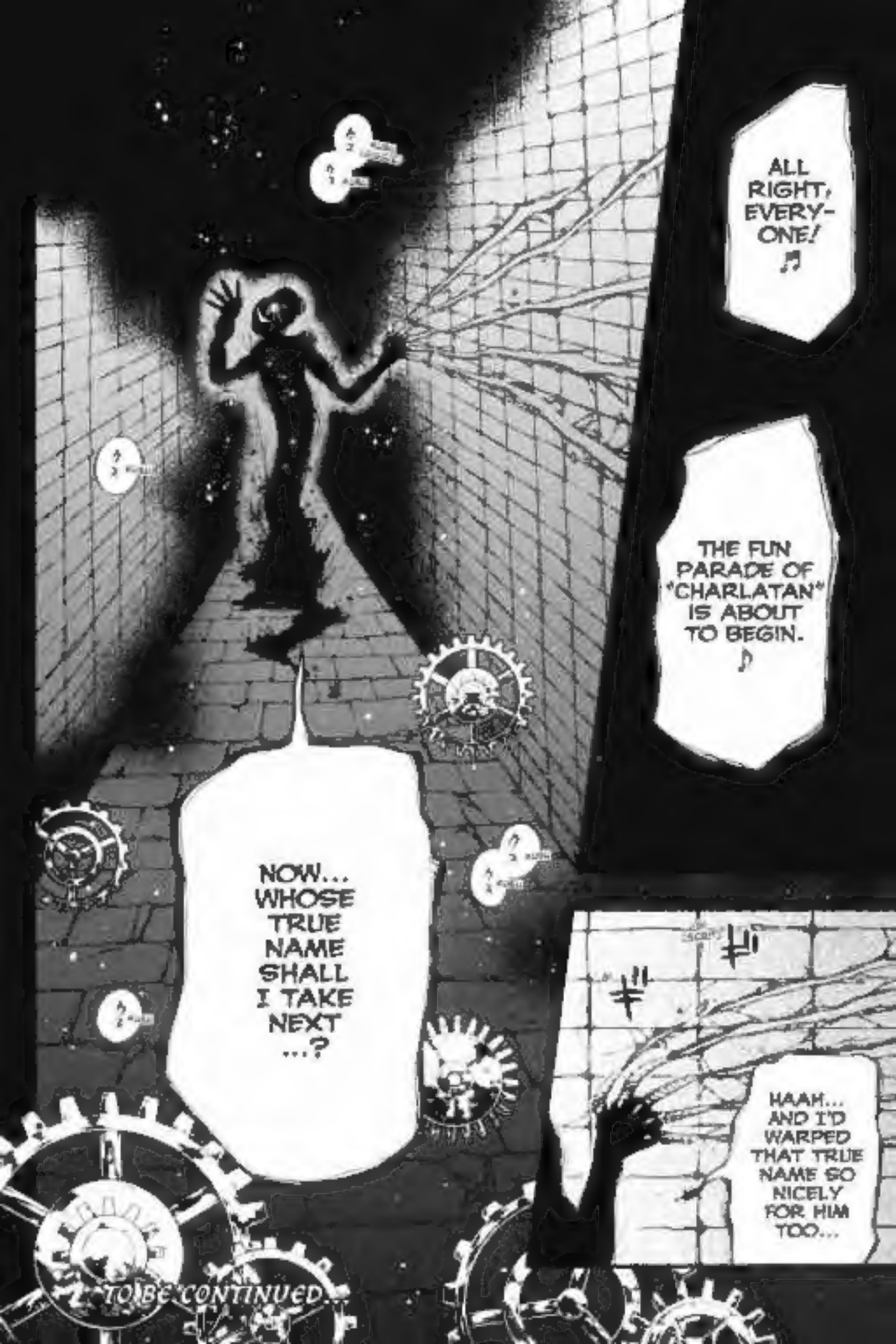
YOU...
SERIOUSLY. WHAT ARE YOU...?

OH
...

YOU...
YOU
ARE—

I
SISTER!

WHO KILLED HIM...!?
...!
...HE'S DEAD.
HURRY... WE MUST REPORT THIS TO MASTER PARKS AT ONCE...!


ALL RIGHT, EVERY-ONE! ♫
THE FUN PARADE OF "CHARLATAN" IS ABOUT TO BEGIN. ♪
NOW... WHOSE TRUE NAME SHALL I TAKE NEXT ...?
HAAH... AND I'D WARPED THAT TRUE NAME SO NICELY FOR HIM TOO...
TO BE CONTINUED...